

REMARKS

A petition to extend the time for response by one (1) month is enclosed herewith.

Claims 15-17, 19, 20 and 22-27 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 25 and 26 are currently amended, Claim 24 is cancelled, new Claim 28 is presented and Claims 15-17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 27 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 15-17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 27.

The remaining claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art in view of US Patent No. 1077877 to Fitch (Fitch '877).

Independent claim 28 represents a rewriting of Claim 24 in a manner that more accurately reflects the invention described in the specification. New Independent Claim 28 is directed to a household appliance including at least one electrical load in the form of a selected one of an electrical interior light and an electrical load that is not an electrical interior light. An arrangement is provided for detecting at least two different positions of a movable door element operatively associated with the at least one electrical load and including a switching device including a movable switching element having a trip cam disposed thereon and an electrical switch in operative connection to the trip cam of the switching element with the switching element being operable to selectively separate the operative connection between the switching element and the

electrical switch. The trip cam is configured for selective movement along a first path wherein the trip cam operates the electrical switch and a second path different from the first path wherein the trip cam does not operate the electrical switch. Also included is a movable door element in operative communication with the switching device, wherein the operative communication between the door element and the switching device is selectively separable by selecting movement of the trip cam along the second path.

Fitch '877 relates to a circuit-closing device for use in connection with doors and is so arranged that the lights may be turned on when the door is open or closed as selected by a user (p.1, lines 16-21). As seen in Figure 3 of the drawings, a push rod is held retracted under tension of a spring in an inoperative position when the electrical wiring is connected to the terminals T but in an operative position in the event the wiring is connected to the terminals W when the conditions are reversed (p.1, lines 91-98). The Fitch '877 device allows a user to connect the control wires for the lighting to terminals T in one case and, terminals W in the other case depending on whether the light should come on or go off whenever the door is open or closed. As illustrated in Figure 1, the lighting wiring T is connected to terminals T such that the connection is complete and the lighting is on when the push rod is extended. With reference to Figures 1-3, when the plate C comes in contact with the projecting end of the push rod and overcomes the tension of the coil spring S, as the door is closed, the slide R will fall by gravity within the slot in which it is mounted and come in contact with the head of the push rod, thus leaving the apparatus in condition to operate when the door is opened. As the door is opened, the spring will throw the push rod out and the plate in coming in contact with the terminals T will cause the lamp to be lighted. The closing of the door will cause the circuit to break by the inner thrust of the push rod breaking the circuit (p. 1, lines 100-112; p. 2, line 1).

Assuming the door is closed and the plate R is at its lowest throw and it should be desired to cause the lamp to be lighted without opening the door, the operator by manipulating the lever E may cause the shaft D to rock and the plate C to be raised into position shown on the dotted lines in Figure 2, which allows the coil spring to throw the push rod out so that plate N will contact with the terminals T thus closing the circuit. After plate C is raised it will allow the push rod to be thrown out, it will be held at a raised position by the rod and, when the door is opened, the plate C will go to the position shown in the solid lines in Figure 2 in readiness to cause the push rod to be thrown in when the door is again closed and which will break the circuit. Should it be desired to reverse conditions, causing the light to be turned on when the push rod is forced into the position shown in figure 1, it may be done by connecting the wires to terminal W (p.2, lines 1-30).

Fitch '877 is concerned with providing a light switch operable by both a door moving between an open and closed position, and a switch when the door is closed. This switch is configured so that depending on the wiring chosen, the light can illuminate when the door is open and remain dark when the door is closed or it can remain dark when the door is open and illuminate when the door is closed. Such an apparatus is substantially different from the apparatus disclosed in the present application and set forth in the amended claims which provides a door-actuable light wherein the switch itself may be disabled while allowing the switch components to remain otherwise operable, i.e. the striker may continue its linear movement when urged without affecting the electrical switch. In this manner, the switch may remain in an automatically operable switch upon opening and closing the door but the electrical circuit itself may be selectively disabled by operation of the switch.

Among other features, Fitch '877 does not disclose any sort of trip cam for selective movement along two paths, with one path leading to actuation of the electric switch by the trip cam and the other path leading to avoidance of the electrical switch by the trip cam.

The Applicants have canceled Claim 24 and rewritten the subject matter of Claim 24 as new Claim 28 for clarity. New Claim 28 is in conformance with the present specification. In rewriting Claim 24 as new Claim 28, the Applicants have removed any perceived ambiguity that may have given rise to the Examiner's assertion that a selected one of two limitations must be met. More specifically, Claim 28 recites that the switching device is a part of an arrangement for detecting at least two positions of a moveable door element. Both of such features were presented in the alternative in now-canceled Claim 24. Accordingly, the argument against Claim 24 presented in the Official Action is now moot and, further, the Applicants have indicated the particular features that are neither taught nor suggested by the applied references as pointed out in the Examiner. Support for new Claim 28 is found in the present specification.

According to the present specification, an arrangement is provided according to the invention for detecting at least two different positions of a movable door element having the [switching device and further providing] that an operative connection between the door element and the switching device according to the invention can be separated (p. 4, lines 13-16).

For these and other reasons, the Admitted Prior Art and Fitch '877, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 28. Therefore, Claim 28 is allowable. Claims 25 and 26 have been amended to depend from Claim 28 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, and acknowledging the allowance of Claims 15-17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 27, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 25, 26 and 28 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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